© Crown copyright • www.metoffice.gov.uk

Early action vital

9 March 2009

As scientists from around the world gather at a climate congress, our climate scientists are highlighting the necessity for early action on climate change to limit temperature rises to 2 °C and avoid the worst effects of our changing climate.

In an article published on the Met Office website, Dr Vicky Pope, Head of Climate Change Advice at the Met Office, states: "Even with drastic cuts in emissions over the next 10 years our results project that there will only be around a 50% chance of keeping global temperatures rises below 2 °C.

"For every delay of 10 years in achieving peak emissions another 0.5 °C will be added to the most likely temperature rise, unless emissions are reduced even more quickly."

These findings, along with other new research from the Met Office on the science and impacts of climate change, are being presented at the Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions Congress in Copenhagen this week. The main aim of the congress is to provide an understanding of the latest scientific knowledge on climate change in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.